



countdown

May 29, 2008

Vol. 13, No. 40

Crew arrives for STS-124 launch



◆ Shuttle Update:

The crew for space shuttle Discovery's STS-124 mission arrived Wednesday to begin preparing for launch

at 5:02 p.m. May 31. The countdown clock began at 3 p.m.



◆ **ELV Update:** NASA's **Gamma-ray Large Area Space Telescope** was encapsulated in its payload fairing on CCAFS Launch Pad 17-B Tuesday. Launch is scheduled for no earlier than June 3 in a window extending from 11:45 a.m. to 1:40 p.m.

At the Astrotech payload processing facility on north Vandenberg in California, fueling of the **OSTM/Jason-2** spacecraft was successfully completed May 19, and the tanks were pressurized May 20. This week, the spacecraft will be weighed and mated to the Delta II payload attach fitting. On Sunday, OSTM/Jason-2 will be installed into the payload transportation canister and then moved to the launch pad the following day.

■ **Road Restrictions For Launch Day, May 31** — The Cape Canaveral National Seashore closed for launch at

6 p.m. on Tuesday. The Merritt Island Wildlife Refuge will close for launch at 6 p.m. on Friday.

State Road 406 east to State Road 3, and State Road 3 south from the Haul-over Canal Bridge to State Road 402 leading to Titusville will be open to badged personnel. These roads will close to all vehicle traffic at 4:45 p.m. on Saturday until after a successful launch has occurred.

State Road 3 from the Gate 2 News Media Pass and Identification Building to State Road 405, NASA Causeway, via Space Commerce Way will be closed for launch beginning at 9 a.m. on Saturday.

NASA Causeway between the U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame and the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex also will close starting at that time.

Roads will reopen approximately two hours after launch. The Cape Canaveral National Seashore will reopen one day after launch.

■ **KEA-22: SRB Retrieval Ships Tour** — An exciting new extension of the KSC Engineering Academy is "KEA on the Move," a new way to feature Kennedy knowledge-sharing at specific locations/area of interests. The first KEA on the Move will be June 19 at the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station to tour one of the solid rocket booster retrieval ships. Attendees should meet at 12:15 p.m. in front of the Kennedy HQ. This event requires your sending an RSVP e-mail with name, company and phone number to KSC-Engineering-Academy@mail.nasa.gov. Please reference "KEA on the Move/SRB Retrieval Ship" on the subject line. KEA on the

LSP Program prepares for back-to-back launches

Move events are first come, first served, with limited seating. NASA and contractor personnel are invited to attend. If you have any questions, please contact *Gisele Altman* at gisele.altman-1@nasa.gov or 867-4000. To view past KEA events or presentations, please visit:

<http://kea.ksc.nasa.gov/courses.htm>.

■ **NASA Science:** For many years, astronomers have been puzzled by something missing in the Milky Way galaxy: exploding stars. Supernovas are supposed to appear two or three times every century, but none have been seen since the year 1680. At long last, one of the "missing supernovas" has been found. You can read the full story at:

http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2008/14may_galactichunt.htm?list947891.



■ O&C Blood Drive —

The blood drive will take place from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. June 11 and June 12. Please bring a photo ID with

your first and last name on it. For an appointment, please send an e-mail to Lillian Belmont at Lbelmont@floridabloodcenters.org. Walk-ons are also welcome! All blood donors will receive a Club Red program, a T-shirt and discount coupons that include SportsClips, GNC, Dunkin' Donuts, LaBella Spa, Fantastic Sams and Christopher Bean coffee.

Countdown is published every Tuesday & Thursday for NASA KSC employees. Deadlines are 10 a.m. Mondays & Wednesdays. E-mail news to anita.barrett@bosc.ksc.nasa.gov. For questions or information, e-mail or call 321-867-2815. You can also find pdf editions of *Countdown* on the Web at http://www.nasa.gov/centers/kennedy/news/countdown/countdown_toc.html.